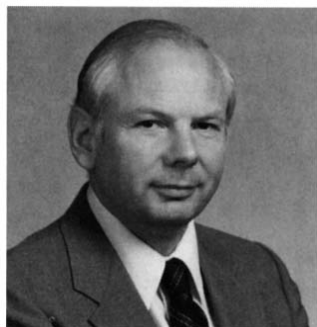


## EDITOR'S PAGE



## Redundant Publication—Again

WILLIAM W. PARMLEY, MD, FACC

Editor-in-Chief

*Journal of the American College of Cardiology*

In the February 1994 Editor's Page (1) I discussed the issue of duplicate or redundant publication and cited three examples that involved articles submitted to *JACC*. It appears that this practice is more widespread than I appreciated. Among others called to my attention is one case in which two articles from the same group were submitted to *JACC* and the *American Heart Journal* within 8 days of each other. They both underwent peer review and were both accepted and subsequently published (2,3). The *JACC* article contains all of the data that appear in the other article but has a larger control group and four tables rather than three. As one reviews both manuscripts side by side, however, it is clear that the writing is very similar. The three figures are essentially identical, as are Tables 1 to 3. The conclusion of the editors of *JACC* is that with a few minor variations, one article has been turned into two.

Attempts by us to prevent this from happening are found in the Instructions to Authors and the Copyright Transfer Form. Sections are reproduced here to emphasize their clarity:

### EXCLUSIVE SUBMISSION/PUBLICATION POLICY

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Address for correspondence: William W. Parmley, MD, Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, 415 Judah Street, San Francisco, California 94122.

To my knowledge, the content of this paper, all or in part, has not been published, has not been submitted for publication elsewhere, and is not in press elsewhere other than as stated in a separate letter to the Editor-in-Chief. . . .

We trust that there is no misunderstanding about any of the language quoted. We hope that authors and reviewers will carefully consider these instructions because we intend to adhere to them. When cases arise that violate these standards, we will generally follow the guidelines laid down by the International Council of Medical Journal Editors (4). After soliciting an explanation from the authors and carefully evaluating their reply, we will then decide on a course of action. In the aforementioned circumstance, we have decided not to consider any submissions from the authors for publication in *JACC* for 1 year.

It is important to note that in all of the instances cited in this and the previous Editor's Page, there was never any question about the correctness or importance of the data. Each instance represents good science that has passed the test of peer review and was considered by the editors to be of high quality and worthy of publication. It is troubling, however, that the senior authors in each instance are respected scientists who are well known for their contributions to the literature.

The reasons for redundant publication seem quite straightforward and have been discussed previously (1). They include a desire to increase the size of one's curriculum vitae for a variety of reasons, the desire to reward different investigators with first (or second) authorship and the desire to maximize the publication output from each data base. Personal gain can also come to authors in many forms. This includes promotion, increased recognition and fame and financial gain. None of these seems to be a justifiable reason for duplicate publication. This practice will only disappear with increased emphasis on quality rather than quantity of publications. As authors, reviewers and editors, we must safeguard the integrity of the scientific publication process. A concerted effort by all of us will help greatly to reduce the practice of redundant publication.

## References

1. Parmley WW. Redundant publication. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 1994;23:542-3.
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3. Wu T-J, Chen S-A, Chiang C-E, et al. Clinical features and electrophysiologic characteristics of accessory atrioventricular pathways and atrioventricular nodal reentrant tachycardia: comparative study between young and elderly patients. *Am Heart J* 1993;126:1341-8.
4. Editorial Policy Committee. Council of Biology Editors, Inc. Ethics and Policy on Scientific Publication. Bethesda (MD): Council of Biology Editors, Inc., 1990:25.